

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077902
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DRAFTED BY INR:HHSAUDERS/HLK
APPROVED BY INR - HAROL8 H. SAUNDERS
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PGOV, EG, US

SUBJECT: SADAT'S INTERVIEW IN OCTOBER MAGAZINE

1. AMBASSADOR GHORBAL CALLED ON SECRETARY BEFORE
LEAVING ON CONSULTATIONS. SECRETARY MENTIONED TO HIM
UPI STORY FROM CAIRO REPORTING ON SADAT'S LATEST OCTOBER
INTERVIEW AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: SADAT SAID HE LEARNED OF THE ALLEGED ISRAELI-
CHRISTIAN AGREEMENT FROM SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE,
WHO HE SAID SHOWED HIM A COPY OF A SECRET LETTER FROM
BEGIN TO ULTRA-RIGHTIST MILITANT CHRISTIAN LEADER CAMILLE
CHAMOUN.

VANCE, THE EGYPTIAN LEADER SAID, SHOWED HIM A WRITTEN
PLEDGE BY BEGIN TO "GUARANTEE" AND "PROTECT" THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE MARONITE STATE SOUGHT BY
CHAMOUN AND OTHER MILITANT CHRISTIAN MILITIA LEADERS.
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"I PERSONALLY READ THE REQUEST FROM THE MARONITE PARTNERS
OF CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND BEGIN'S AGREEMENT TO IT," SADAT
SAID. UNQUOTE.

2. SECRETARY TOLD GHORBAL THAT, IF ASKED, HE WOULD
HAVE TO RESPOND: "THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE BECAUSE

I NEVER HAD SUCH A LETTER." HE TOLD GHORBAL THAT
HE WAS SORRY HE WOULD HAVE TO RESPOND THAT WAY.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY DURING TALKS WITH ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS
FULL TEXT OF OCTOBER INTERVIEW BECAME AVAILABLE. IT
CONTAINS FOLLOWING:

QUOTE: I SAY IT VERY FRANKLY. LAST YEAR IN JANAKLIS,
U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE INFORMED ME OF A
PLEDGE UNDERTAKEN BY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENAHEM
BEGIN TO THE EFFECT THAT BEGIN HAS A MORAL OBLIGATION
TO PROTECT THE MARONITES AND SOME MOSLEMS IN SOUTH
LEBANON. THIS MEANS THAT THERE IS AN AGREEMENT AMONG
CAMILLE SHAM'UN, AL-ASAD AND BEGIN TO ESTABLISH A
MARONITE STATE WITH ISRAELI GUARANTEES. I HAVE MYSELF
READ THE REQUEST OF THE MARONITE LEADERS--CAMILLE
SHAM'UN'S PARTNERS--AND I ALSO READ BEGIN'S APPROVAL
OF THIS. UNQUOTE.

4. IF ASKED ABOUT THE UPI REPORT, WE SHALL RESPOND:
A READING OF THE TEXT OF THE SADAT INTERVIEW SHOWS
THAT HE DID NOT MENTION ANY SUCH LETTER.

5. IF QUERIED FURTHER ABOUT THE EXACT TEXT OF THE
SADAT INTERVIEW, WE SHALL SAY: WE KNOW OF NO SUCH
AN AGREEMENT. VANCE
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